

been to impede the exportation of medicines and medical technology to Cuba. These regulations have discouraged the transfer of health care resources through purposely restrictive licensing procedures and denying U.S. visas to, and even suing, executives of foreign companies found to be trading with the island. The collapse of the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc, Cuba's principal benefactors, exacerbated the damaging effects of U.S. sanctions. As a result, health conditions in Cuba have deteriorated significantly.

Prior to the Warner-Dodd bill, the Dodd-Torres legislation in 1998 was introduced which was aimed at removing the provision of food and medicine from the U.S. sanctions list. The act lost its viability when Senate amendments emasculated the measure, turning the proposed bill into a vehicle for that would make matters worse for Cuba. Hostile riders to the bill permitted sanctions against "terrorist" nations that deny access to food, medicine or medical care as a means of coercion or punishment of a segment of the local populace, effectively invalidating the intentions of the bill's sponsors. Although Cuba has faced international pressure over its flagging human rights record, Havana officials maintain in return that the U.S. embargo has inflicted far more grievous rights violations against Cubans. Critics of the embargo condemn its hypocritical nature because it denies Cuba access to food and medicine as a form of coercion, while the U.S. simultaneously chastises Havana for not providing the population with these essential products. Although the Clinton administration recently ended similar policies against Iran, Libya and Sudan, arguing that "food should not be used as a foreign policy tool," the administration maintains a much more severe embargo including both food and medical supplies against Cuba.

A HISTORY OF GUARANTEED HEALTH CARE

Obsessed with eliminating "human, social and economic underdevelopment," Castro revolutionized the country's medical system in 1959, introducing comprehensive free health care for all Cubans. For several decades this system was considered a model for other Third World nations. The country's constitution guarantees citizens the right to free medical treatment and preventive care. The health delivery system focuses on women's health, providing programs for the early detection of breast and cervical cancer, prenatal care, and free child immunization. Previously, when medicines were available, state pharmacies filled prescriptions for free as well as formulated vaccines which were supplied by the bustling domestic drug manufacturing industry.

Cuba's progressive health care policy propelled the country's successful and internationally acclaimed biotechnology and pharmacology export industries. The island's 11 "world class" research institutions made impressive advances, some of which were greatly respected by the international medical community. These institutes have been credited with developing innovative medical breakthroughs including vaccines for hepatitis-B and meningitis-B. In fact, Cuba is the sole producer of a vaccine for meningitis-B that has been proven to reduce the incidence of the disease by 93%. The institute also developed a surgical cure for retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic disorder that may lead to blindness or tunnel vision.

LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON THE EMBARGO

While Cuban authorities maintain their resolve to provide the populace with greatly needed medical care, highly qualified doctors

still face long lines of patients with only antiquated technology to treat them. Even the medicines produced by the pharmacology industry are difficult to obtain because imports of their components have been restricted by the blockade. Despite the previous successes posted by the pharmacology industry, island drug store shelves are now empty. Although recent changes have allowed for some medical sales to Cuba, each transaction must receive prior approval from the U.S. Treasury Department in order to insure that the sale will not benefit the Cuban government and that such supplies will only be handled by independent and non-governmental agencies. Currently, only one U.S. company has sought license to sell medical goods to Cuba. A study by the American Association for World Health found that Cuban hospitals are in dire need of basic medical supplies as a result of U.S. policies. This is partially due to the fact that the government-run health care system serves the impoverished sector of the population, which cannot otherwise purchase medicine, while other hospitals serving wealthier Cubans and foreigners reap the benefits of this minor relaxation of the embargo. The only relief for the average Cuban citizen comes on the daily charter flight from Miami that brings donations from individuals and aid from the few Catholic humanitarian agencies authorized to operate on the island.

The U.S. embargo and the tempo with which it is being administered is indisputably hurting the majority of Cubans. Critics of the status quo maintain that lifting sanctions and following a policy of constructive engagement would be of great benefit to the general population. Several U.S. legislators recently have traveled to Cuba, indicating a need for more non-political relations with the island. "Cuban can benefit from the research of the National Institutes of Health and we can benefit from the research (the Cubans) are doing on meningitis-B," said Sen. Arlene Specter (R-PA) following a recent visit to the island.

Although the Warner-Dodd bill and HR 212 are meant to transcend party lines, it will be difficult to advance such creative thinking in either the House or the Senate due to the opposition of such powerful and unregenerate Cuba-bashers as Senate Foreign Relations Chairman, Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and Florida's Cuban-American lobby.

IN HONOR OF THE BAYONNE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOUNDATION ON 34 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THE CITY OF BAYONNE AND TO THIS YEAR'S HONOREES, MR. AL SAMBADE AND MR. THOMAS CUSEGLIO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation for its continued service to the City of Bayonne, New Jersey, and this year's honorees, Mr. Al Sambade and Mr. Thomas Cuseglio.

The Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation, a social service agency in its 34th year, has remained a vibrant and reliable force in the community. Following the slogan, "Peo-

ple Helping People," the foundation has remained dedicated to serving the people of the community through various outreach programs, including Head Start and Meals on Wheels. And this year's honorees truly embody the goals of this organization.

Serving as Assistant Municipal Engineer from 1981 through 1987, Mr. Sambade has worked diligently for the City of Bayonne throughout his career. From funding procurement to construction supervision of various public buildings, drainage systems, and vital water distribution systems, Mr. Sambade's contributions can be seen throughout the city.

Mr. Sambade, a registered architect, licensed engineer, and professional planner in the State of New Jersey, founded the DAL Design Group in 1987. As the organization's President, he supervised millions of dollars worth of diversified housing and commercial and industrial development projects in the State.

A graduate of the Roberson School in Bayonne, Mr. Sambade is also very active in charitable organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, Windmill Alliance, and the Hudson County ARC.

Mr. Cuseglio has been both an active and visible force in the Bayonne community for more than three decades. From 1979 through 1983, Mr. Cuseglio served as City of Bayonne Building Inspector. By 1983, because of his expertise and unmatched commitment to the City, Mr. Cuseglio was serving as City Construction Official, Building Sub Code Official, Zoning Officer, and Relocation Officer.

After retiring from the City in 1992, Mr. Cuseglio continued his commitment to his life work by accepting a part-time position with the City of Keansburg as a Field Inspector to Code and Specification for its revitalization programs. And just four years later, in 1996 returned to Bayonne as "Clerk of the Works." In this capacity, Mr. Cuseglio was responsible for inspecting all construction sites.

Mr. Cuseglio remains active in community and charitable organizations. Presently, he serves on the Board of Trustees of the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation.

These two men exemplify leadership and dedication to the City of Bayonne and to the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation. For these tremendous contributions to New Jersey and their incredible example as public servants, I am very happy to congratulate Mr. Sambade and Mr. Cuseglio for their achievements. I salute and congratulate both of them on their extraordinary accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MORAMARCO

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to recognize the outstanding career of John Moramarco, who is retiring as Senior Vice President and General Manager at Callaway Vineyard and Winery in Temecula, California—after 30 years with the winery.

John comes from a long history of vintners. In fact, he started his career at the family's